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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9627

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, LU
SUBJECT: ANTONY ACLAND - UK AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
TO LUXEMBOURG

RE: LUXEMBOURG 0193

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTONY (SIC) ARTHUR ACLAND AS UK AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG MARCH 18. HE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT HIS NEW POST IN JULY.

2. ACLAND IS A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE. HE HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS SINCE 1972, THUS SERVING UNDER SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME (CONSERVATIVE) AND JAMES CALLAGHAN (LABOR).

3. NOW 46 YEARS OLD, ACLAND WAS EDUCATED AT ETON AND CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD. HE ENTERED FOREIGN OFFICE IN 1953 AND, AFTER STUDYING ARABIC AT MIDDLE EAST CENTER FOR ARAB STUDIES IN LEBANON, WAS ASSIGNED AS POLITICAL OFFICER IN DUBAI AND LATER KUWAIT. WHILE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTERS SELWYN LLOYD AND HOME (1958-62), ACLAND ATTENDED SEATO MEETING IN WASHING-
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TON IN 1960 AND CENTO MEETING IN ANKARA IN 1961. HE WAS

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A MEMBER OF BRITISH MISSION TO UN (1962-66) AND HEAD OF CHANCERY AT THE BRITISH MISSION IN GENEVA (1966-68). HE RETURNED TO THE FCO IN 1968 AND HEADED THE FCO'S ARABIAN DEPARTMENT 1970-72.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE FOUND ACLAND FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE. AS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO TWO FOREIGN SECRETARIES, ACLAND HAS HELD A POSITION OF GREAT TRUST, EARNING A REPUTATION FOR DISCRETION AND IMPARTIAL LOYALTY TO HIS CHIEFS. HE HAS A WELL-TRAINED, QUICK MIND, AN ENGAGING IF SOMEWHAT RESERVED MANNER AND AN EASY SOPHISTICATION.

5. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER CLARE ANNE VERDON AND THEY HAVE TWO SONS, BOTH STUDENTS AT ETON, AND A DAUGHTER. MRS. ACLAND, WHO HAS CHARM AND BEAUTY, IS A GRADUATE OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY WITH HONORS IN ENGLISH AND WORKED IN ADVERTISING BEFORE HER MARRIAGE. SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN LONDON WITH THE DIPLOMATIC WIVES' ASSOCIATION AND THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND. BOTH MR. AND MRS. ACLAND ARE FOND OF TENNIS AND SKIING.

SPIERS

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